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FEATURES

And the Walls Came Tumbling Down

The Old House restaurant in Wisterville, Massachusetts, starring with 72 plates with
BY CHRISTINE SAWYER

Hot House

A husband and wife create a mail-order greenhouse kit. Their most indispensable tool: a sense of humor.
BY JACK McCARTHY

An American Craftsman

Woodcarver Arthur Blodgett makes every perfect pose with his own blood, sweat and tears.
BY TRUDI LEMIRE

Take a Walk on the Warm Side

Endless floor heat, insulated curtains, keeps cozy with hot water tubes embedded in concrete underfoot.
BY CHRISTIE RITT

When There's a Mouse in the House

Getting rid of mice takes more than setting out traps and cheese. For starters, skip the cheese.
BY JOSEPH D'ALESSIO

Dream House: Upon This Rock

The Old House restaurant provides the foundation for 200 tons of Dream House in Wilton, Connecticut.
BY JACK McCARTHY

Montpelier

James Madison's Virginia plantation embodies the lighter side and laziest reflexes of the man and his age.
BY WALT HARDEGGER

The Poster: The Big Switch

The anatomy of light switches has changed little in 200 years, but the variety of designs has multiplied.
BY KATE RAVENBERG

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ANSWER

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On a recent visit to his brother in Tucson, Arizona, writer JOSEPH D'AGOSTINO ("When There's a Mountain the House," page 116) stumbled—happily—upon an Amico Pro Guitars and Accessories booth. "The exhibitors were definitely have someone from the piano world," says D'Agostino, who lives in Hoboken, New Jersey. "They learned all about pianos. Then we had lunch and moved on to keyboards and guitars." Book虫es, D'Agostino had last father out a new kind of electronic accessories. "He desperately sought one over at his booth," says D'Agostino. "Of course, if he hadn't found the trap with bubble, they might never have avoided as the first place."



"I think of them as a leaf branch, and the idea is of one in an oasis," says Gauze expert and designer STEPHEN H. POLLAK, 68, of his eco-acoustics with son-in-law MARK LEVINE, 48. Since 1995, the company has sold over 100,000 units—the latter being "Buy Your Low-House Now" (page 17)—and 14 tracks, a robust real estate, money management and home improvement. Their best selling book *The EcoLife* is now out in paperback, and their newest, *Low Tech*, is available in hardback. Pollak drives (Stinger headphones). Levine lives in Hoboken, New Jersey, with his wife, Dorothy. Pollak lives in New York City with his wife, Carly.

GREGORY NEHÉC spectrum on smoothboard drawing, applying paint onto a clay-coated surface covered with black ink. For "Take a Walk on the Where Side" (page 118), Nehécs and his husband co-depicted the artwork with carbon fiber heat. "It would have been nice to have such art in heat; when I was growing up in Iowa," he says. "In the summer, we would all gather around the boards to be near the heater zone." Now a resident of New York City, Nehécs has contributed artwork to *Wired* and the *Wall Street Journal*.



Early in his career, JOHN ZELEN was on fashion photography with Cindy Crawford and Naomi Campbell. Lately, however, his assignments have switched shooting media to blossoming plant and calligraphy for *Blowout* (see Living, Far, "Mon-petit," page 124). He expressed the lineage of Pennsylvania James McNeil Whistler's plantation in Virginia by problem regurg. "Instead of other parts of the states in the country side of the South," Green says. "It was interesting to learn about McNeil's historical problem—and how his heart ended up living his house."

HELP

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welcome home

They only needed space for their family, but Robert and Suzanne Goudon picked up something else when shopping at a local home improvement store last spring in Bellevue, Washington. They bought a copy of the special "Milton Peeler" edition of *This Old House* magazine. Leafing through the issue, they soon realized they'd found their dream house—a 275-year-old Colonial restored by the crew of public television's *This Old House*. A walk of inquiry and research followed. In early June, Robert and Suzanne flew across the country to view the property. For Suzanne's 43rd birthday, in mid-June, Robert wrote a poem about the house. In early July, the couple's sealed bid arrived in WGBH-TV (which produces *TOH*)'s mail.

The house became a catalyst for a change in the Goudons' life. Robert, a software engineer for 11 years with Microsoft, and Suzanne, a nurse, wanted to take some time off to raise their three young children—Charles, 4, Weston, 2½, and Anna Marie, 6 months. They couldn't imagine a better place. "I love Colonial houses," says Suzanne, who vividly remembers her grandmother's house in upstate New York. "I like timber framed structures," says Robert, who spent three years of his youth in Missouri barns.

The Goudons' offer of \$1.35 million, the highest bid the selection committee at WGBH-TV received, and their instant notice by July 23 sealed the deal. "We jumped up and down," says Suzanne. "And then the reality of a long renovation set in."

Roaming a mirror through their new house on the day the \$3,000 living mortgage was served in mid-August, Suzanne donned bonnet, stepped outside in her apron in the kitchen, and gently plucked the bulb from the glass of the sconce where she'd been napping. Suddenly, the 18th-century house was filled with life and dreams and plants. Although, notes Robert, Suzanne is skilled in woodworking (plans for a coffee-table grain bin you found over the tool-packed workshop wing of the house), both turned to books. "I'd love to build some bookshelves for the study," says Suzanne, who admires the paneled book cases T.O.H. master carpenter Norm Abram had constructed. Two sets made for the media room. "And I'd like to build a chandelier version of this fixture for the music room." Robert is swatting back at the 1500s beam. "I just like to go in and look up," he says. Suzanne loves the details—like the hand-painted medallions on the kitchen walls—and the emotion of a sturdy house. "If the place has lasted for 275 years, it'll survive us, I think," she jokes. "We suspect that it will survive them 10 more and their children's children and..." —Patti Combes

In August, Robert and Suzanne Goudon and their three children—from left, Charles, Weston and Anna Marie—moved from Washington to the 1720 Cobble in Melrose, Massachusetts, recommended by T.O.H. last fall.

robert and susanne goudon approached us because before john wycliffe 1989 in manhattan, 1989 we were an acm service provider specialising

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JM Johns Manville

**Learning Our Stripes**

The flag-changing tradition porch at the house in the photo on pages 14 and 15 ("Rally Round the Flag," May-June 1988) should have been displayed according to the Flag Code, not the rules of an interior designer. I quote from the Flag Code, Title 44, United States Code, chapter 90, section 875, paragraph (2): "When displayed either horizontally or vertically repeated in a single line, the stripes should be suspended; and to the flag's own right; that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window, the flag should be displayed at the same way, with the stars or bald eagle to the left of the observer in the street." You further deserve the flag by showing it correctly based on a dozen or so photos I've seen that displayed, the flag is always kept folded in a presentation flag holder.

ALAN RUMKIN, BIRMINGHAM, FIRST CLASS,
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I have read their letter captioned for my reading. With 10 construction seasons, he suggested that he could relate the house-revitalists not only that he was oblivious to site conditions like the viewer, but described the design itself disregarded prevailing winds, the tracking of the sun and every other condition of life. Thus, the decision to sacrifice a 60-foot oak tree for the sake of the garage in progress, especially considering that the clients were moving to the country to live safely, not to find a great place to park their cars.

ROB DODDIN, AUSTIN, TEXAS

Hiring Skills

As an electronics engineer for a thermal stage, I like to thank you for your treatment of rope ("The Painter's Rope," July/August 1988). You gave the breaking strength of the ropes rather than the static working load. Most ropes' breaking strength is three to four times higher than the working load. Working-load guidelines take into account that most loads are dynamic as opposed to static. A rope should never be used near its breaking strength.

BOB ANTONI, SORRENTO, FLORIDA

Tool Traps

As a general contractor in Chicago, I have it suggestion regarding Mr. Kierow's query about protecting trees from dirt and damage during renovation projects ("Painters Protection," Letters, July/August 1988). Aspects of his article overlooked. In the case of the oak tree used and subject to site conditions, keep out dust and debris areas on a timeline prior to its felling. Or take three passes of a sawed-off sweep phyton to remove together to make a taut cover. To protect a broadleaf evergreen tree, one would need to install a complete cover. But it will work if the end result is a protected tree. A happy-go-lucky contractor can do a lot better.

BOB YOUNG, CHICAGO

When I work on new houses, I move the table with the carbide come in or cut a piece of plywood to fit across the top. I hope all around it so it won't get hit. (Don't forget to wear about it.)

RONALD ROSENSTEIN, RESTON, VA

All Roads Lead

The article "Building a Safe Deck" (July/August 1988) correctly informs me regarding the lack of prescriptive anchorage details for the attachment of decks to houses in the Building Officials and Code Administrators (BOCA) National Building Code. You failed to inform, however, that I also related that the code includes performance requirements in the form of limiting deflection that must be incorporated in the design of a deck to withstand the standard load. In other words, the code requires that the deck, including anchorage, be designed to withstand the loading criteria included in the code. The lack of prescriptive anchorage detail (for example, 8-inch lag screws of 10-inch diameter) that are spaced apart at 6 feet should not be inferred to mean that the code is deficient, but rather that a prescriptive codeless approach is more appropriate depending on the loading criteria.

RONALD ROSENSTEIN, RESTON, VA
Deck Administrator, Country Club Hills, IL

I am a construction consultant and believe that the Forest Products Laboratory's system for attaching a deck to a house (page 108) has some shortcomings in a listing standpoint. The top of the metal brackets is not properly looped behind the building paper. This will cause the water—which is migrating between the building paper and the exterior finish (in this case, wood shingles)—to run down behind the paper and resulting, in areas where the bolts attach the beams to the house, the water flow will encounter resistance because the connection here is tight.

Another problem is the fact for oxidizing of fast connections. Oxidizing can break down after a few years. The bolt connection one isn't easily accessible, making it hard to maintain or replace. A possible option for both the fastening would be a flexible polyethylene ties and rodded-in each of them. Since (as the title says) is "Safe" (BOCA's system) (page 107), an insulated metalic compatible material should be used instead of oxidizing.

ROB FRIED, BIRMINGHAM, QHS

KAREN THOMAS, Novato

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OFF THE WALL

BY JEANNE MARIE LASKAS



T

THE GREAT BOOTY GRAB

Home shows are heaven for grown-ups who never got over trick-or-treating

he guy at the door to the Pittsburgh Home & Garden Show hands me a program and a yellow plastic bag. I'm not sure what the plastic bag is for. Neither is Alex, my husband. This is our first home show. Frankly, we think it's a little odd to pay \$7.50 to get into a giant convention center full of salespeople peddling their wares—especially when you can just go to the mall for free—but we're game. We could use some kitchen floor tile ideas, some deck inspiration, a fresh approach to recessed lighting.

We follow the crowd and go riding the up escalator. We examine the diets of the people riding down escalator; the people just complaining about their home show experience. They look...droopy. Definitely headed home for naps. I notice two things about these droopy people: 1. Their yellow plastic bags are bulging or, in some cases, bursting and have to be held like babies. 2. Most of them are carrying products. Not

ILLUSTRATION BY A. J. GARGER

OFF THE WALL

just any yardsticks. Nine peak yardsticks with blue and gold anemometer markings.

"The get or go one of those yardsticks," I say to Alex.

"But we already have a yardstick," he says.

"But I think those yardsticks are fake," I say.

We step off the sidewalk, walk round the corner and see a throng of happy people carrying mops. Actually, they have two mops apiece, one blue and one yellow, and together with towels, "I mean have one of those dual mop combination," I say.

"But we don't need two mops—or even one," Alex says.

"Where did you get the mops?" I say to a man in a Superdew XXCT shirt. "Are they that?"

"Four loads," he says, pointing at the dimension of a hot-tub basket, a stone-mounter carrying bench and a piano-and-orga display. I don't see any mops. But I see a lot of stuff I didn't even know I needed. What's a house, I think, if not a place to put stuff? And a house shows a collection of that stuff. A home shows, I think, its interior furnishings extravagance.

"Mopsters?" I say to Alex. "Don't know what, but that guy over there in the booth with the concrete pavers is giving out some pretty damn refrigerator magnets." I push my business card over to the concrete paver booth and go in for the lol. The magnets are in a basket just beyond my grasp, just an inch beyond that long stick in the sport stick whose thickness is way too muchy.

"Well, hello there, little lady!" the man says, spotting around and pointing a pointer with his fat.

"Um," I say, falling like a leaf caught shuddering, even though the magnets are, technically, free. "Um, well, I think my basement has been cause magnets about your poor pavers." Alex looks at me. I can tell by the black look on his face that he hasn't a prior question in his head. He could beat me right here and now if he could say, "She just wants one of your stupid magnets." Instead, he says, "Non-pavers. Are they dumb?" From the ground to go to all show what happens to concrete when compressed in a mold under extreme pressure and compressed with high-frequency vibrations. I uncreepily type a mini-blind display with four hours next close and beyond that an evening display, which seems to have fast battery-operated fans.

"Well, thanks," I say in the distance man. I open my bag. He reaches for a magnet and, clutch, drops one. I recognize that sound I remember this feeling. Alex holds our bag, like water a mug return. Giggling, we step away.

Then when I begin to understand the house show experience, it all goes back to rock-and-rolling. The human urge to go from place to place and have perfect arm ergos while you fit till your bag with mops. I wonder how many miles of concrete pavers, how many thousands of mini-blinds, how many millions of mops have been sold, thanks to the lessons learned from Holloman. "A guy just told me that the rubish recycling system bowls a going out fee

digital-read-outdoor thermometer," Alex says.

"Let's go," I say, and we're off on a mission without boundaries. We scoop up free pens, lens spacers, spacing tops, vanity, dehydrated sandwich egg-salads, hand cream, take, hand candy, sticky grapefruits, sugar, a key chain in the shape of a tooth. We paddly take fine baby screwdrivers, baby wrenches, baby bone-hulls, game glue, brother, calendar, a key chain in the shape of Horatio. In my haste to pluck a fine helium balloon, I nearly knock over a kid. I grab the last handful of hand-candy down the hot-tub basket, hitting my own hand on the take.

"Would you please carry my bag?" I then have the nerve to say to Alex. "It's getting really heavy."

"No way," he says. "Not as long you share your hot-tub crusty." I trade him three jawbreakers for a phone that rings 12x. We stand next to a life insurance booth, wondering over costs. Alex points out that we're not getting any kinder life insurance, click inspiration or fresh approaches to recessed lighting.

"Bicycles," I say, pointing. It's not a storage. There before us sits a giant pile of shiny pink pedicabs. A link is giving them out. A guy trying to deliver a mortgage license keeps giving start-up info to people posing with their pink pedicabs.

"Really, folks, for someone out," he says. Far he can have 1,000 products. "Could we have one?" I ask, and he hands them over.

"But," I say, holding my cockpit in the air.

With that, our home show experience is complete. Well, Alex can't carry much shit. Our backs ache. Our feet are blistered. The pedicabs, however, set one firmly to use as walking sticks, as many people around us are trying to do. As we near the exit, we become mesmerized by some bright, colorful dots of hanging front poles. A guy from Australia is selling them, \$150 a pop.

Although the dots resemble medieval torture devices, they do have functions and answers, so people are reaching over and popping closer. I snap out a blue chair, and Alex ticks out a red one. "Albionfield," says the camera. "Whooosh!" And "Cooool!" About 15 of us, all strangers, are racing in the chairs. A lot of home show bouting is going on. A lady down our aisle of the mall is her referee bag.

"Did you get the handle opened?" she says.

"Check," I say.

"How about the air lock?" she says.

"Got new," I say.

Several of us eventually stop swinging and get on the floor, peer over the contours of our bags and compare our respective bags, the hole back home after the big night! There's no question of the thousands of dollars that are about to be filled, thanks to the house show.

The mat with the hanging chains has no fine stuff, only the chains

so Alex and I buy two. ■

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Timber Revival

Last April, a tornado ripped through Nashville, Tennessee, destroying 1,240 old-growth trees at the Hermitage, Andrew Jackson's plantation home. In the wake of spirit of Old Hickory himself, the plantation is salvaging the wood—which will soon help pay the bills for landscape restoration. Created by the Rain Forest Alliance as "sustainable" wood, meaning it won't deplete or harmlessly compromise.



Without bulldozers, no workers can scratch the ground for artifacts. Then the first planting priority will be a mix of native Tennessee species to replace trees that had served as a buffer between the 19th-century ax and a 20th-century lightning. "The replant is necessary for insurance purposes," says Gary Adams, the estate's director of research. "It's difficult to demonstrate life on an early 1800s plantation with ears whitening by."

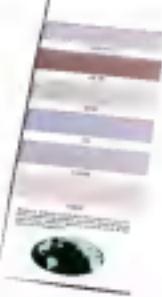


Painting the Town Green

In the early '90s, manufacturers began processing paint collected from commercial contractors and wastewater centers and using it for low-cost recycling and graffiti removal. Now, paint-recycling programs have grown fast, and home owners are discovering the benefits of painting a house with something stuck between. As paint recycling has expanded across the country, companies have refined the process of sorting, filtering, testing and filtering to obtain paint to improve the quality and range of colors. The latest paint now comes in whites, earth tones and exterior base as well as in flat and semigloss finishes for interior and exterior. And, to the delight of home owners, recycled paint not only is as good as new but also costs as little as 20 cents a gallon, about half the cost of comparable quality virgin paint. "We took quite a while to convince my husband," says Judi Prunk, an industry coordinator at the California Environmental Protection Agency. "But he said, 'If we had the lowest paint he'd ever used. And after six years, it's held up beautifully.' To find the nearest distributor, call your local waste-management department or state environmental protection agency.

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—David Price, *Associated Press*



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extras

LIFE AFTER DRYWALL

Unstack those empty 5-gallon buckets, and put them to good use.

WEB

WEBSITE AND
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about enemies
and pests in and
around the house

WEBSITE SPOTLIGHT

The National Pest Management Association's PestWorld website links to numerous associations, wholesalers and contractors, for all your pest-control needs. In the "Ask Our Experts" bulletin board, "The Queen" (a woman who has owned her own business for 10 years) answers questions about preventing break-ins and getting a mouse-out door off a garage door or driveway gate. For most of the same-care issues that the Web site can't answer, contact a local telephone box line: 1-877-554-8800.

WEBSITE SPOTLIGHT

As the sun, when it rises, is to promote the sunrise; so, too, "The Master-Gardener," a manager for a whole sales—provides advice, tips and product information. Although reluctant to endorse specific items, Coffey often recommends such products such as root-tite, effervescent tablets and will help you determine, say, whether that an insect is appropriate for control in a fireplace seal. To get great tips in our own, click on picture of exceptional gardens. Coffey's publications include a legal "bulldog" that is the recently revised *Green Building Handbook*, a guide to building and a 10-12 foot edition, revised and reprinted every year depicting designs of single-family homes listed as Green Living Magazines.



Tool Tip

A rags-and-pudding bucket uses a branch and a bucket to a clothesline for a tree house, creating central placement and later becoming trash for cleaning.



Painter Shorty

Stacked in a bucket and a bucket, a clear plastic container holds clean and dry for 30 seconds. The bucket catches the waste water for easy disposal.



King Can

With a pencil for every project, a bucket and newspaper squares as a mobile workshop. Roll it onto plants on a deck, and add a seat for landscape projects.



Shrubby Bucket

A heavy-duty shrubby steep fence with a bucket makes transporting full bushes a breeze. Come spring, use the bucket for arboreal trailblazing gear.



Worm Ranch

Wiggles, which compost kitchen waste satisfactorily and can be grown in dug-down or a sterilized bucket of damp, shredded newspaper and fruit skins.



Deck Skewer

With a metal post-anchor joint-set cement as a partially buried post with the horizon removed! The bucket lifts when the cement sets, leaving a cylindrical deck pier.

PHOTO COURTESY OF COFFEY



Buckle Up

In lieu of a flexible nylon string, a brush cutter has a whirling steel blade that severs saplings up to 6 inches in diameter. Landscaper Roger Cook wears his to a "circular saw whirling away at the end of a pole." Kickback—caused by a pinched blade—or a ricocheting blade can suddenly propel the tool out of control.

That's why heavy-duty brush cutters come with a safety harness. "If it kicks back or you lose control, the blade is less likely to come looking for you," Cook says. Even a harness, however, can't protect everyone. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports several cases in which blades nearly decapitated bystanders. So wear the harness, and keep everyone—pets too—at least 60 feet away from the action.

Tool Time

"This book is dedicated to all of us who have ever walked into a hardware store, home center, or lumberyard and asked for a wheelchair or climbing," says Steve Erlinger, author of the second edition of his *Complete Illustrated Guide to Everything Sold in Homecenter Stores*. Erlinger got the idea for the book, originally published in 1982, after a frustrating experience buying up floorboards, using a guy for removal of a car's pvc. The second edition includes sections on innovations such as the dimensional devices that are replacing tape measures for determining room dimensions. The updated guide also has many illustrations and expanded entries, including 15 almanacs for tongue-and-groove planes alone. • Erlinger is just the dux-mus, while *The Old House* contributing writer Jeff Taylor takes the pants route. In his latest book, *Tooth of the Earth: The Practice and Pleasure of Gardening*, he gives each of the 24 chapters a gardening tool or title, then moves on from there.

A harvest basket leads him to elementary mechanics. An eager-to-try太子, Taylor's first experience: Reading the collection is a lot like dropping in on Taylor at home in Dogpatch and charting while he bops a row or pokes a few tomatoes.



Foul-Weather Friend

Weather reporters are the true lords of meteorology. They often call for sunny skies when it isn't all hell in breaking loose. Most people live in airconditioned houses removed from the weather equipment that TV and radio stations use. But a computerized weather station gives owners a go of tracking conditions closer to home. After installing several plastic devices such as rain and wind gauges outdoors, you attach wires via a small control console to monitor wind and precipitation. A built-in television module at night lets TV come in, and you can set a friend alarm. Per anniversary of 12-term Hurricane, the system served better than the Weather Channel during our maddeningly dry summer. The wire connecting outdoor sensors to the indoor monitor has to be stepped through 60 meters or a hole drilled in the side of the house. Goodie, perhaps. "But you'll be all you're anxious about the weather," says a company spokesman.



Sometimes you forget the milk. **Sometimes you forget the bread.**
Sometimes you forget **the store altogether.**



Whether you are going to the store, to work or the dry cleaners, every trip you take in a Concorde LX is inevitably

The Chrysler Concorde was respectfully ranked "Best Premium Midsize Car in Initial Quality" by J.D. Power and Associates.

becomes a joyride. With every corner you become lost in the stability of its cab-forward architecture and low-speed traction control. As your thoughts begin to race, Chrysler Concorde LX's smooth 4-speed automatic, a fully adaptive electronically controlled transmission, actually begins to learn your driving style and tailors its internal shift patterns for you. Soon your fingers grip the leather-wrapped steering wheel and your mind turns along to the purring sounds of a 225 hp 24-valve V6. Now then, where are you going again? For more information about a test-drive you will never forget, call 1-800-CHRYSLER or visit www.chryslercars.com. Concorde LX starts at \$29,080; LX3 is shown, \$25,765.*



Featuring MacPherson struts up front and a multi-link configuration with Chapman struts at the rear, the resulting geometry



of the Chrysler Concorde's precisely tuned suspension reduces rear end squat under acceleration and front end dive under braking.



ENGINEERED TO BE GREAT CARS

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C A L E N D A R

• November 7 to 23—
Second Cheesemaking Show, Buffalo and Erie County Pavilion, Buffalo, New York, for hours, call 716-476-3555.

• November 12 to 29—
Southern Christmas Show, a holiday fair featuring an old-time village, a children's campfire, reading classes and more, Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, North Carolina, 800-848-8246; weekdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; \$6 in advance, \$7 at the door.

• November 21 to 22
and 23 to 25—
Iron Mountain Warren Fair with handwoven arts and crafts plus on-the-spot entertainment, Commerce Exhibition Center, San Francisco, 707-779-5386; Friday hours 10 a.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., \$7 for adults, \$4 for seniors and \$4 for ages 6 to 12.

• November 14 to 15—
Lighter's annual
Production Show and Sale featuring a judged woodworking competition, carvers, suppliers, hobby artists and door prizes, Whiteman's Workshops, Penobscot, Penobscot, 212-324-4317; Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., \$2 to \$5, \$7.50 for entry fees.

Hats Off

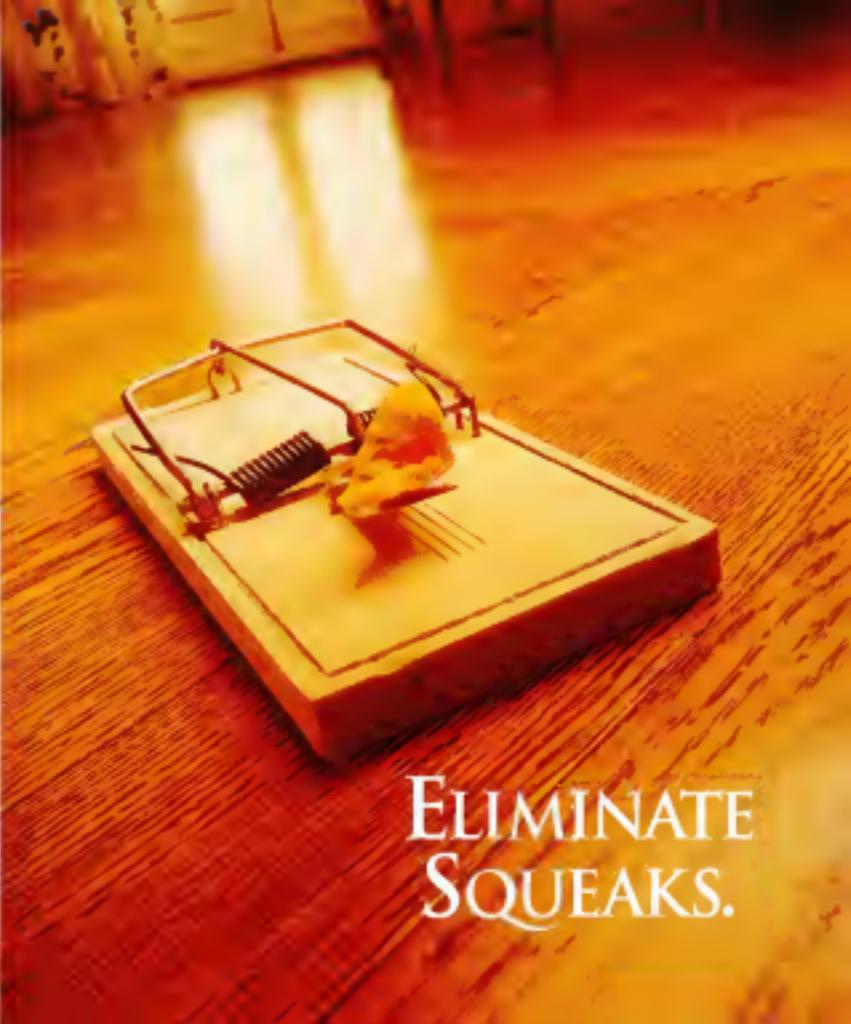
There's nothing like a little customer service to renew flagging faith. A member of our staff, who shall remain nameless, recently purchased and promptly broke a small saw from Japan Woodworker. We returned the saw anonymously—the company had no idea it had come from *The Old House*—and although the California-based firm's experts determined that the buyer had "abused" the blade, the company cheerfully and hastily sent a replacement. A folding saw with razor-sharp teeth, the tool is designed to cut on the pull rather than the push stroke, hence its instructions: "To avoid damage to the blade, let the saw do the work. Do not try to force it." Our staffer adamantly denies any wrongdoing, but we who know his enthusiasm have our doubts. The point is: Japan Woodworker stood behind its product—and with refreshing graciousness. If you've had an especially positive experience with a manufacturer, write to *Extras*, *The Old House* magazine, 1185 Avenue of the Americas, 27th floor, New York, NY 10036, or E-mail us at kaiser@oh.tmeinc.com.



Sidewinders

Pistol-like handle on two saw retarding screwdriver nests comfortably in the palm, which makes inserting and removing screws easy on the rest of the body. On one tool, the blank fiber-reinforced nylon handle twists 45 degrees to the side, making it possible to apply up to twice the torque that can be exerted on a standard screwdriver. A powerful neodymium magnet secures bits to the driver. A 10 other model features bit storage in the handle and a locking collet to grip hex-shank bits, and a gear assist option that reduces friction for each turn of the red handle. That's fast enough to transform the screwdriver into a wood-bit drill, although it takes two hands to get this motor its revolutions per minute. The 41-assorted screw and drill bits, not drivers and tiny screwdrivers look so tempting in their case as a Whitman's Sampler.

PHOTO: WHITMAN'S



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if squeaky floor is forever. Make sure your
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MAIL BONDING

Why scroll the axles when you can flip the pages of a catalog?



Boss Guy Tex, Waco, 800-453-0031, www.bossguytex.com

The plier for pricing, packaging boxes and wood such as a scroll saw, saw cutters, etc. "This is the broad end or extra finger." Bossman pliers hold additional replaceable heads, extremely accurate measuring devices are used. If you ever need another business model like this you do about tool quality, you may be left frustrated.



MAIL

GARDNER, 800-348-1978, www.gardner.com
A collection of greenhouse gear on shelves on the safety glass was Chetley's best guess in Washington State's Skagit Valley. Gardner tools designed by green industry experts include a heated and ergonomic from England and an automatic dry set screw system from Denmark. Information providing advice comes throughout.



GARDNER, 800-348-1978, www.gardner.com

The Gardner Axle Auditor is able for those who titled "slipping gear" or the function of most bolts and rubber lug-ends. Gardner holds the largest collection of Gardner work seen on the market, plus lots of steel industrial and agricultural products to aid a vast line of construction customers including wheel assemblies, chains and more.



GRASSHOPPER, 800-344-4741, www.grasshopper.com

Grasshopper is a little hardware store in a dilapidated, historic neighborhood, near the Southwest's largest supplier of fire extinguishing tools. "More than 2,000 products at a prior" to the Highland Firehouse philosophy. Grasshopper itself is making its own extinguisher manufacturers, and the company sponsors amateur and big leagues.



GRASSHOPPER, 800-344-4741, www.grasshopper.com

From extinguishers to cameras, more than 2,000 types of tools, plastics and greeting novelties. The company sells all kinds, grouping them in a spring or pull lead before giving them the green light. Since 1985, the Firefly dynasty has been participating tools according to its creed. "Our motto is pleasure over service to protect your safety."



HAZARDWARE, 800-344-5278, www.hazardware.com

Despite catalog name, products go for novelties. Most items deal with safety-directing, conditioning and raising such party masters as fire hydrants, domes and off-the-shelf. Among the popular construction Goliath, mechanical engineering novelties and instant "pop" items are also entrepreneurs mapping out unique frontier models.



HAZARDWARE, 800-344-5278, www.hazardware.com

Founded in 1988 and still growing, is about 60 stores. The company recently introduced catalog with high-quality price ranges, including hot drying and the occasional end user. The catalog calls it "breakfast a "meal of love, prepared of your door" while it increases style design "spices of early 1900s suggestion and employ."



HEY GUY TEX, WACO, 800-453-0115, www.bossguytex.com

Offer to meet or beat prices of all other world wide catalogs. Fifty years of pulled up sleeves transformed what was once the Killeen family electric motor repair shop to a Master Distributor in woodworking and construction areas. Catalog includes flavor of friendly disassembly down the road. Color photos & power tool usage off the page.



HEY GUY TEX, WACO, 800-453-0115, www.bossguytex.com

Ending statement for folks who often spend their weekends muddled by the charms of a winter. The pages are packed with designs of special and D.I.Y. tools, machinery and shop accessories. Selections continually expand to accommodate such subjects/categories. The next article to photo-finish, dropping product type to a minimum.

BUILING TOOLS

The Handy PocketKnife

For stripping wires, sharpening a carpenter's pencil or testing a window for dry rot, nothing beats a hand-held pocketknife. The blade folds safely into the handle, which features blade edges—just to maintain sharpness. The handle is always as handy as a credit card. It used to be that every boy carried a knife, when sturdy butterfly-shaped handles fit easily in the palm. Electricians, however, favor a knife with a more elongated profile, such as the vintage one pictured here, and with an oval-shaped hole for hanging from a



Left inset: An illustration; in fact, gave this one to Timbuktu House architect Jeff Taylor. The building itself, which has no intention for striping walls, began as an antebellum house. But it had been severely damaged, so Taylor ground it to a point, making a pointy profile for de-tariffing wet. (The point sits up in the Killeen graves.) The blade performs jobs such as removing old insulation from a garage roof paper, cutting insulation bats and advertising deer skins from a center belt.